

CLAIMS

1. A storage area management method comprising:

a request step of transmitting an authorization request from a communication terminal having a storage unit to an area management apparatus, the authorization request requesting an authorization to set an area available for an application in said storage unit;

an instruction step of, when said area management apparatus receives said authorization request, determining in said area management apparatus a storage area to be allocated for said application based on said received authorization request, and transmitting to said communication terminal an execution instruction to execute setting of the determined storage area; and

a setting step of, when said communication terminal receives said execution instruction, setting said determined storage area in said storage unit.

2. A storage area management method according to Claim 1, further comprising a storing step of downloading the application from a content server or the area management server and storing the application into the set area, by the communication terminal.

3. A storage area management method according to Claim 2, wherein said area management apparatus has a table in which said application and information on an area for to be allocated for the application are stored in association with each other, and said area management apparatus determines said storage area to be allocated for the application by using said table.

4. A storage area management method according to Claim 2, wherein said area to be allocated for the application is determined with consideration given to the size of said application and data to be used by said application.

5. A storage area management method according to Claim 2, further comprising a step of acquiring data to be used by said application and storing the data into said set area, by said communication terminal.

6. A storage area management method according to Claim 2, further comprising an acquisition step of acquiring a download program necessary for downloading said application by said communication terminal, the acquisition step preceding said request step, and wherein

said request step, said setting step, and said storing step are performed by executing said download program in said communication terminal.

7. A storage area management method according to Claim 2, wherein said storage unit is detachably attached to said communication terminal.

8. A storage area management method according to Claim 2, wherein said communication terminal is a mobile terminal, and carries out communication with said area management apparatus over a wireless communication network.

9. A communication terminal comprising:
a storage unit;
request transmitting means for transmitting an authorization request to an area management apparatus, the authorization request requesting an authorization to set a storage area in said storage unit;
setting means for receiving an execution instruction transmitted from said area management apparatus, and setting a storage area in said storage unit in accordance with the received execution instruction, the execution instruction instructing to set an area; and
storing means for downloading an application from a server unit and storing the application into said set area.

10. A communication terminal according to Claim 9, further comprising acquisition means for acquiring a download program necessary for downloading said application.

11. An area management apparatus comprising:
receiving means for receiving an authorization request from a communication terminal having a storage unit, the authorization request requesting an authorization to set an area available for an application in said storage unit; and
transmitting means for determining a storage area to be allocated for said application based on the received authorization request, and transmitting to said communication terminal an execution instruction to execute setting of the determined storage area.

12. A computer program product for operating a computer as:
receiving means for receiving an authorization request from a communication terminal having a storage unit, said authorization request requesting an authorization to set an area available for an application in said storage unit; and
transmitting means for determining a storage area to be allocated for said application based on said received authorization request, and transmitting to said communication terminal an instruction to reserve said determined storage area.

13. A computer-readable recording medium containing a program for operating a computer as:
receiving means for receiving an authorization request from a communication terminal having a storage unit, said authorization request requesting an authorization to set an area available for an application in said storage unit; and

transmitting means for determining a storage area to be allocated for said application based on said received authorization request, and transmitting to said communication terminal an instruction to reserve said determined storage area.